Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-05 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 EUR-12 NSC-05 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /112 W

-----088081 300115Z /61

R 291130Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8204

CONFIDENTIAL NOUAKCHOTT 2275

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES -- UNCTAD COMMON FUND

MEETING

REF: STATE 191312

1. MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT (GIRM) HAS STILL NO BEGUN TO ORGANIZE ITSELF

TO ADDRESS COMMON FUND QUESTION SYSTEMATICALLY OR TO PREPARE EITHER SUBSTANTIVELY OR ADMINISTRATIVELY FOR NOVEMBER COMMON FUND MEETING IN GENEVA. FOREIGN MINSTERY DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR REINFORCED OUR IMPRESSION THAT GIRM INTEREST IN AND CONCERN ABOUT COMMON FUND REMAINS SCATTERED AROUND GOVERNMENT (FOREIGN

MINISTER, MINISTER PLANNING AND MINES, MINISTER FINANCE HAVE ALL INDICATED LIVELY INTERST), AND THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED SINGLE, INTEGRATED VIEW. WORKING LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS REPORT THAT GIRM WILL DIFINITELY PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA MEETING, BUT THAT GIRM DELEGATION WILL NOTE BE NAMED UNTIL 2-3 WEEKS BEFORE CONFERENCE OPENS.

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2.DEPENDENCE OF MAURITANIAN ECONOMY ON EXPORT OF IRON ORE PROMPTS MAJOR INTEREST IN INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS ASPECT OF COMMODITIES QUESTION. SEE-SAWING FLUCTUATIONS IN WORLD COPPER PRICES AND THEIR ADVERSE IMPACT OVER PAST FOUR YEARS ON MODEST, BUT FOR MAURITANIA SIGNIFICANT, COPPER EXPORTS HAVE DISMAYED GIRM MINERALS/MINES OFFICIALS AND HAVE PRODUCED LIVELY INTERST IN ATTEMPTS TO ORGANIZE MARKET TO SMOOTH OUT PRICE SWINGS. BUT

GIRM POSITION ON COMMON FUND WILL ULTIMATELY, IN ALL PROBABILITY, REFLECT MORE OSITION OF OTHER IRON ORE AND COPPER PRODUCERS AS MODIFIED BY ARAB AND AFRICAN CAUCUSES THAN GIRM ORIGINAL OR INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS.

3. NONETHELESS, POLITICAL DIRECTOR URGED AMBASSADOR TO ORGANIZE PRESENTATIONS OF U.S. VIEWS BOTH TO SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO "EXPRTS" IN GIRM DELEGATION IN GENEVA, AND UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE IDENTITY OF NOUAKCHOTT DECISION-MAKERS AS SOON AS GIRM IS ORGANIZED TO ADDRESS PROBLEM.

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TAGS: ECON, EGEN, MR, UNCTAD

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